

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Cape Romain

*National Wildlife
Refuge Bird List*



Welcome to the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1932 as a refuge for migratory birds, Cape Romain includes over 37,000 acres of salt marsh and pristine barrier islands comprised of sandy beaches, maritime forests, and fresh and brackish water impoundments. The Refuge also encompasses 30,000 acres of State-owned bays, rivers and creeks that are managed under a lease agreement with the State of South Carolina. Cape Romain NWR provides these fascinating and diverse habitats for a great variety and number of birds throughout the year. The refuge fulfills its primary purpose of benefitting seabirds, waterfowl and shorebirds during migration and through the winter season, and offers forage, cover, nesting and roosting areas for birds of prey, wading birds, and neotropical and resident songbirds. Cape Romain NWR is designated within the Cape Romain-Santee Delta Region, a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network Site of International Importance and is one of only four sites on the Atlantic Coast of the United States and Canada.

photo: USFWS, Royal Terns

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge



This blue goose, designed by J. N. "Ding" Darling, has become a symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge

Cape Romain NWR is crucial to the survival of species listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern. The threatened Wood Stork can be seen foraging for small fish and tadpoles in the impoundments and roosting in tall trees close by, while the Bald Eagle hunts for fish in the creeks and open waterways. The refuge oyster reefs provide valuable foraging ground for the American Oystercatcher, supporting the largest overwintering population of American Oystercatchers on the East Coast. The oystercatcher is a species of "high concern" under the US Shorebird Conservation Plan. For the threatened Piping Plover, the refuge provides critical beach habitat to rest and feed during the non-breeding season.



photo: Felicia Sanders

American Oystercatcher

Designated an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society, Cape Romain Refuge furnishes important habitat for nesting seabirds, shorebirds and colorful neotropical migrants. Refuge beaches provide nesting sites for such species as the Black Skimmer, Wilson's Plover, and the threatened Least Tern. The Painted Bunting, Parula Warbler, Summer Tanager

cover photo: Danny Bales, Snowy Egret



Painted Bunting

and other migratory songbirds use the forested areas as breeding habitat during the summer months.



Blue-winged Teal

Bulls Island, at approximately 5,000 acres, is the largest of the four refuge barrier islands and the most visited. With intricate tidal creeks, several shallow fresh and brackish water ponds, lower and upper level salt marshes, sandy beach, and dense wooded forest of live oak, pine and palmetto, Bulls Island has long been known as a haven for wildlife.

photos: Danny Bales



Burt Moore ©

Wilson's Plover

This bird list includes 293 species of birds which have been recorded on the refuge, principally on Bulls Island, and is based on observations by refuge personnel and ornithologists. Another 26 species considered accidental, extirpated or extinct are listed separately. If you see a bird not listed, please report your sighting to the refuge manager at caperomain@fws.gov or by calling 843/928 3264.

Seasonal Appearance

Spring (Sp).....March-May

Summer (S).....June-August

Fall (F).....September-November

Winter (W).....December-February

Seasonal Abundance

(A) Abundant common species – very numerous)

(C) Common – certain to be seen in suitable habitat

(U) Uncommon – present but not certain to be seen

(O) Occasional – seen only a few times during a season

(R) Rare – seen at intervals of 2 to 5 years

* - nest on the refuge, or did so in recent years

Listed Separately:

Accidental – extremely rare; birds completely outside of their normal range

Extirpated – birds no longer found within the refuge and adjacent areas

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>		<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Waterfowl									
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	--	--	--	R					
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	--	--	--	R					
Greater White-fronted Goose	--	--	--	R					
Snow Goose	--	--	R	R					
Brant	--	--	--	R					
Canada Goose	R	O	O						
Tundra Swan	R	--	C	C					
Wood Duck*	C	C	C	C					
Gadwall*	C	O	C	C					
Eurasian Wigeon	--	--	--	R					
American Wigeon	C	--	A	A					
American Black Duck	U	--	U	U					
Mallard	C	--	C	C					
Mottled Duck*	U	C	U	U					
Blue-winged Teal*	C	U	C	C					
Cinnamon Teal	--	--	--	R					
Northern Shoveler	C	--	C	C					
Northern Pintail	C	--	C	C					
Green-winged Teal	C	--	C	C					
Canvasback	C	--	C	C					
Redhead	O	--	U	C					
Ring-necked Duck	C	--	C	C					
Greater Scaup	O	--	U	U					
Lesser Scaup	C	--	C	A					
Harlequin Duck	--	--	R	R					
Surf Scoter	O	--	U	U					
White-winged Scoter	U	--	--	U					
Black Scoter	U	--	C	C					
Long-tailed Duck	--	--	U	U					
Bufflehead	C	--	C	A					
Common Goldeneye	--	--	U	U					
Hooded Merganser	--	C	C	--					
Common Merganser	--	--	R	R					
Red-breasted Merganser	C	R	C	C					
Ruddy Duck	O	R	C	C					
New World Quail									
Northern Bobwhite*	U	U	U	U					
Turkeys									
Wild Turkey*	U	U	U	U					
Loons & Grebes									
Red-throated Loon	R	--	R	U					
Common Loon	O	R	C	C					
Pied-billed Grebe*	C	C	A	A					
Horned Grebe	U	--	U	C					
Red-necked Grebe	--	--	--	R					
Storks									
Wood Stork	C	C	C	C					
Gannets, Cormorants & Darters									
Northern Gannet	--	--	U	U					
Double-crested Cormorant	A	C	A	A					
Great Cormorant	--	--	R	R					
Anhinga	U	U	O	R					
Pelicans									
American White Pelican	U	--	U	U					
Brown Pelican*	A	A	C	C					
Bitterns, Herons, Ibis & Spoonbills									
American Bittern	U	--	U	U					
Least Bittern*	U	C	U	R					
Great Blue Heron*	C	C	C	C					
Great Egret*	C	C	C	C					
Snowy Egret*	C	C	C	C					
Little Blue Heron*	C	C	C	C					
Tricolored Heron*	C	C	C	C					
Reddish Egret*	O	U	U	O					
Cattle Egret*	C	C	R	R					
Green Heron*	C	C	U	U					
Black-crowned Night-Heron*	C	C	C	C					
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	U	C	O	U					
White Ibis	C	C	C	O					
Glossy Ibis*	U	C	O	U					
Roseate Spoonbill	--	O	O	--					
Hawk, Kites, Eagles & Allies									
Black Vulture*	C	C	C	C					
Turkey Vulture*	C	C	C	C					
Osprey *	C	C	C	U					
Swallow-tailed Kite	O	U	R	--					
Mississippi Kite	U	U	R	--					
Bald Eagle*	U	U	C	C					
Northern Harrier	C	--	C	C					
Sharp-shinned Hawk	C	O	C	C					
Cooper's Hawk*	O	O	O	O					
Red-shouldered Hawk*	U	U	U	U					
Broad-winged Hawk	R	--	R	--					
Red-tailed Hawk*	U	U	C	C					
Golden Eagle	--	--	--	R					
Falcons									
American Kestrel	U	R	C	C					
Merlin	U	--	U	U					
Peregrine Falcon	U	--	C	C					

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>		<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Rails & Allies					Gulls & Terns				
Yellow Rail	--	--	--	R	Bonaparte's Gull	U	--	U	U
Black Rail*	--	R	--	--	Laughing Gull*	A	A	C	U
Clapper Rail*	A	A	A	A	Ring-billed Gull	C	O	C	U
King Rail*	O	U	O	O	Herring Gull	C	O	C	A
Virginia Rail	O	--	U	U	Lesser Black-backed Gull	U	--	U	U
Sora	O	--	U	U	Great Black-backed Gull	C	--	C	C
Purple Gallinule	R	R	R		Sooty Tern*	R	R	R	--
Common Moorhen*	C	A	C	C	Least Tern*	C	C	O	--
American Coot	C	U	A	A	Gull-billed Tern*	C	C	C	R
					Caspian Tern*	U	U	U	U
Plovers					Black Tern	C	U	C	--
Black-bellied Plover	C	O	C	C	Common Tern*	O	U	U	R
American Golden-Plover	R	--	R	--	Forster's Tern*	C	C	C	C
Wilson's Plover*	C	C	O	R	Royal Tern*	A	A	C	U
Semipalmated Plover	C	C	C	C	Sandwich Tern*	C	C	C	--
Piping Plover	O	--	O	U					
Killdeer*	U	U	C	C	Skimmers				
					Black Skimmer*	A	A	C	U
Oystercatchers, Stilts & Avocets									
American Oystercatcher*	C	C	C	C	Jaegers				
Black-necked Stilt*	U	C	--	--	Parasitic Jaeger	--	--	R	R
American Avocet	R	--	R	--					
					Pigeons & Doves				
Sandpipers					Rock Pigeon	O	O	O	O
Spotted Sandpiper	U	--	U	O	Mourning Dove*	C	C	C	C
Solitary Sandpiper	O	O	O	--	Common Ground-Dove*	U	C	O	O
Greater Yellowlegs	U	--	C	C					
Willet*	A	A	C	C	Cuckoos				
Lesser Yellowlegs	U	--	C	U	Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	C	C	U	--
Upland Sandpiper	R	--	R	--	Black-billed Cuckoo	O	--	R	--
Wimbrel	U	U	U	R					
Long-billed Curlew	U	U	U		Owls				
Marbled Godwit	U	--	U	U	Barn Owl*	U	U	U	U
Ruddy Turnstone	C	U	C	C	Eastern Screech-Owl*	C	C	C	C
Red Knot	U	--	U	U	Great Horned Owl*	C	C	C	C
Sanderling	A	U	A	A	Barred Owl*	U	U	U	U
Semipalmated Sandpiper	C	O	C	--	Long-eared Owl	--	--	--	R
Western Sandpiper	C	O	C	C	Short-eared Owl	--	--	--	U
Least Sandpiper	C	U	C	C					
White-rumped Sandpiper	U	--	O	--	Nightjars & Swifts				
Pectoral Sandpiper	U	O	U	R	Common Nighthawk*	C	C	U	--
Dunlin	A	O	C	A	Chuck-will's-widow*	C	C	O	--
Stilt Sandpiper	R	--	R	--	Eastern Whip-poor-will	O	--	O	O
Ruff	R	--	--	--	Chimney Swift*	C	C	A	--
Short-billed Dowitcher	C	C	C	C					
Long-billed Dowitcher	--	--	--	O	Hummingbirds				
Wilson's Snipe	U	--	C	C	Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	C	C	C	O
American Woodcock*	O	R	O	O					
Wilson's Phalarope	--	--	U	--	Kingfishers				
Red-necked Phalarope	R	--	R	R	Belted Kingfisher*	C	U	C	C

	<i>SP</i>	<i>F</i>		<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Woodpeckers							
Red-headed Woodpecker*	U	O					
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	C	C					
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	O	O					
Downy Woodpecker*	C	C					
Hairy Woodpecker*	U	U					
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	R	R					
Northern Flicker*	C	C					
Pileated Woodpecker*	C	C					
Flycatchers							
Eastern Wood-Peevee*	U	U					
Acadian Flycatcher	C	U					
Eastern Phoebe	U	C					
Great Crested Flycatcher*	C	U					
Western Kingbird	--	--					
Eastern Kingbird*	C	U					
Gray Kingbird	O	O					
Shrikes							
Loggerhead Shrike*	C	O					
Vireos							
White-eyed Vireo*	U	U					
Yellow-throated Vireo*	O	O					
Blue-headed Vireo	O	O					
Red-eyed Vireo*	C	C					
Jays & Crows							
Blue Jay*	C	C					
American Crow*	C	C					
Fish Crow*	C	C					
Swallows							
Purple Martin*	C	C					
Tree Swallow	C	C					
Northern Rough-winged Swallow*	C	U					
Bank Swallow	U	U					
Cliff Swallow*	U	U					
Cave Swallow	--	--					
Barn Swallow*	A	C					
Chickadees & Titmice							
Carolina Chickadee*	C	C					
Tufted Titmouse	C	C					
Nuthatches							
Red-breasted Nuthatch	R	--					
White-breasted Nuthatch*	U	U					
Brown-headed Nuthatch*	C	C					
Creepers							
Brown Creeper	O	O					
Wrens							
Carolina Wren*	C	C					
House Wren	U	--					
Winter Wren	O	--					
Sedge Wren	U	--					
Marsh Wren*	C	A					
Gnatcatchers & Kinglets							
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	C	C					
Golden-crowned Kinglet	O	--					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	U	--					
Thrushes							
Eastern Bluebird*	U	U					
Veery	U	--					
Gray-cheeked Thrush	U	--					
Swainson's Thrush	U	--					
Hermit Thrush	U	--					
Wood Thrush*	U	U					
American Robin	U	--					
Mockingbirds & Thrashers							
Gray Catbird*	U	O					
Northern Mockingbird*	C	C					
Brown Thrasher*	C	C					
Starlings							
European Starling*	U	O					
Pipits							
American Pipit	O	--					
Waxwings							
Cedar Waxwing	C	--					
Longspurs							
Lapland Longspur	--	--					
Snow Bunting	--	--					
Warblers							
Blue-winged Warbler	R	--					
Golden-winged Warbler	R	--					
Tennessee Warbler	R	--					
Orange-crowned Warbler	O	--					
Nashville Warbler	R	--					
Northern Parula*	C	C					
Yellow Warbler	U	--					
Chestnut-sided Warbler	O	--					
Magnolia Warbler	U	--					
Cape May Warbler	U	--					
Black-throated Blue Warbler	U	--					
Yellow-rumped Warble	U	--					
Black-throated Green Warbler	O	--					

	<i>SP</i>	<i>F</i>
Blackburnian Warbler	O	O
Yellow-throated Warbler*	C	C
Pine Warbler*	C	C
Prairie Warbler*	U	U
Palm Warbler	U	C
Bay-breasted Warbler	R	--
Blackpoll Warbler	O	O
Black-and-white Warbler	U	U
American Redstart	C	C
Prothonotary Warbler	U	O
Worm-eating Warbler	U	U
Swainson's Warbler	O	O
Ovenbird	C	C
Northern Waterthrush	U	U
Louisiana Waterthrush	R	--
Kentucky Warbler*	--	O
Common Yellowthroat*	C	C
Hooded Warbler*	C	O
Wilson's Warbler	R	R
Canada Warbler	R	R
Yellow-breasted Chat*	U	O

Sparrows

Eastern Towhee*	C	C
Bachman's Sparrow	O	R
Chipping Sparrow*	O	C
Clay-colored Sparrow	--	R
Field Sparrow*	O	O
Vesper Sparrow	O	U
Lark Sparrow	--	R
Savannah Sparrow	O	A
"Ipswich" Savanna Sparrow	--	--
Grasshopper Sparrow	--	--
LeConte's Sparrow	--	--
Nelson's Sparrow	O	C
Saltmarsh Sparrow	O	C
Seaside Sparrow*	U	C
Fox Sparrow	--	O
Song Sparrow	U	C
Lincoln's Sparrow	--	--
Swamp Sparrow	C	A
White-throated Sparrow	C	C
White-crowned Sparrow	--	--
Dark-eyed Junco	--	A

Cardinals & Allies

Summer Tanager*	C	C
Scarlet Tanager	R	R
Northern Cardinal*	C	C
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	R	R
Blue Grosbeak	C	U
Indigo Bunting*	C	U
Painted Bunting*	C	U

	<i>SP</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>W</i>
Blackbirds				
Bobolink	C	--	C	--
Red-winged Blackbird*	C	C	A	C
Eastern Meadowlark*	O	O	C	C
Common Grackle*	C	C	C	C
Boat-tailed Grackle*	A	A	A	A
Brown-headed Cowbird*	U	U	U	U
Orchard Oriole*	C	O	O	--
Baltimore Oriole	O	--	O	O

Cardueline Finches

Purple Finch	O	--	--	O
House Finch	U	U	U	U
Pine Siskin	O	--	--	O
American Goldfinch	U	--	O	U
Evening Grosbeak	--	--	--	R

Old World Sparrows

House Sparrow*	U	U	U	U
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This list is of accidentals, extirpated and extinct species known from the refuge.

Mute Swan, Common Eider, Great Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Brown Booby, White-tailed Kite,

Swainson's Hawk, Purple Gallinule, Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane, Eskimo Curlew, Red Phalarope,

Glaucous Gull, Brown Noddy, Roseate Tern, Pomarine Jaeger, Razorbill, Say's Phoebe, Snowy Owl,

Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Bachman's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, American Tree Sparrow,

Lark Bunting, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Redpoll

Birding Ethics

Observe birds without disturbing them. Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds. Electronic call devices should be used sparingly even when they are permitted.

Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb the birds or expose them to danger.

Disturb wintering wildlife as little as possible, particularly during critical feeding and resting periods. They need all of their energy reserves to withstand the stresses of harsh weather and migration.



Marbled Godwit

photo: Danny Bales

Leave habitat as it was found. Many birds die when they become entangled in fishing lines, 6-pack rings and other trash, or when they mistake garbage for food.

Acknowledgments

Bird Listing revised by Dr. Dennis Forsythe with additional data from the late Robin Carter, Sarah Dawsey, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Nathan Dias, Cape Romain Bird Observatory.

Taxonomy and arrangement follow: American Ornithologists' Union. 2010. Fifty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union *Check-list of North American Birds*. Auk 127:726-744.

Sighting Notes

Date _____

Time _____

Weather _____

No. of species _____

Route or area _____

Observers _____

Remarks _____



American Black Duck

photo: Danny Bales



Black Skimmer

photo: Steve Hillebrand

Cape Romain
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https://www.fws.gov/refuge/cape_romain

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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